

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

**PRESENT:**

Richard Bardach  
Bill Doering  
Ed Hattenbach  
Thomas C. Muething  
Ray Warren  
Natalie Wolf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager  
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor  
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council  
Chief Rich Wallace, Police/Fire  
Rick Kay, Treasurer

**ABSENT:**

Peg Conway

Mayor Muething welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the November 10, 2014 regular meeting. He asked if there were any corrections or additions. Since there were none, Mayor Muething stated that the minutes were approved.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the October, 2014, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached hereto). Mr. Lahrmer reported a summary of this report and noted tax collections for the month of October totaled \$330,221. The total general fund revenue for the month of October was \$496,365 while expenses equaled \$234,398. At the end of October, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$3,881,034. The report was accepted as submitted.

**RECOGNITION**

Mayor Muething announced the retirement of John Eisenmann, the Village Engineer. The Mayor presented John with a proclamation and a service award in recognition for his contributions over the past 29 years.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Doering presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-32, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Jeffrey Allen for the 2014 Storm Water Rehabilitation Program. Seconded by Mr. Warren and the motion carried unanimously. Three projects will be performed: 2375/2380 Section Road will have cured in-place liner installed; 3035 Verger Place will have 184 feet of pipe replaced along with 2 storm drains and 3 catch basins; and 3580 Arborcrest Court will have 24 feet of pipe replaced.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-33, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Argonaut for Property and

Casualty Insurance. He noted the total premium would be \$69,550 which is an increase of five percent over last year due to the significant claim losses. He stated the contract has been notably lower than past years. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-34, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Assured Neace Lukens for Professional Services Related to Property and Casualty Insurance. Seconded by Mr. Doering. Mr. Hattenbach stated that the contract period would be for 3 years at \$13,000 per year. This keeps the cost consistent for a six year period. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2014-15, Ordinance Appropriating Funds for Fiscal Year 2014. Seconded by Mr. Doering. Mr. Hattenbach reported that the tax refund appropriations will be \$60,000 and \$24,000 will be appropriated for Mayor's Court. He noted the refunds are carryover from multiple years. The motion carried unanimously and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (6)  
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2014-16, Ordinance Making Appropriations for the Expenses of the Village of Amberley for the Fiscal Year 2015. Seconded by Ms. Wolf. The motion carried unanimously and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (6)  
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach reported that the budget reflects the largest source of revenue for the Village continues to be the earnings tax and there is \$922,000 in real estate taxes. Revenue in total is expected to be \$4.4 million. He noted that when general fund transfers are subtracted from the budget, expenditures are \$100,000 less than the 2014 budget.

Mayor Muething commented that the Village's financial sustainability report identified a need to focus on the deferred road programs. He stated that in 2015, there will be a focus to catch up on street work.

Mr. Hattenbach commented that prior to the finance meeting on the budget, Council Member and Police/Fire Committee Chair Peg Conway reviewed the police and fire portion of the budget extensively for the equipment needs for the upcoming year.

Mr. Hattenbach also mentioned that there is a possibility that there may be a decrease in the storm water fee, however, it must first be reviewed by the storm water utility and be presented to council.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2014-35, Resolution to Authorize Transfer of Unclaimed Monies to the #9101 Unclaimed Monies Agency Fund. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Muething noted on behalf of Council Member Conway that the Police and Fire Committee plans to meet 4-6 times in the coming year. Interested individuals should watch for the meeting notices.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Lahrmer presented Resolution 2014-36, Resolution Requesting the Hamilton County Auditor Place Lien Against Property for Nuisance Abatement Expenses Incurred by the Village. Mr. Warren moved to approve Resolution 2014-36, seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that CDS Associates is now known as CT Consultants. They have provided to the Village the fee structure for 2015 for which there is no increase. There was a slight increase in 2014, however, rates will remain the same for 2015.

Mr. Lahrmer reported the Maintenance Department has completed 6 leaf collection circuits through the Village. The black and white advisory signs are being utilized to provide advance notice to residents for when leaf collection will occur. The signs allow the Village to control overtime and adjust collection based on manpower and equipment break downs which the Village has experienced.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that an agreement was executed with the Butler County Sheriff's office that allows the Village's police department to house prisoners there should the Hamilton County Jail be full.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Wallace announced there is an upcoming Police and Fire Committee meeting on December 11 at 4 p.m. to review department statistics for 2013-2014.

Chief Wallace directed residents to the Village website to obtain a home security checklist that provides guidance on things to do to secure your home during the holidays.

Chief Wallace noted that he has received complaints about dogs running unleashed at the Amberley Green. He stated that dogs must be under control, however, vicious dogs have been reported, which is concerning. He also reminded users of the park to register with the police department and obtain vehicle stickers.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Muething announced that this month completed the first year of the council two-year term. He stated that it should be recognized that council and residents have an outstanding group of people that work for the Village which makes their job easier. He recognized the Chief, Village Manager and staff for carrying out the work to accomplish the council's goals.

Mayor Muething reported that the council met 14 times over the past year, storm water met 4 times and the committees together met for a total of 67 times. He went on to share various accomplishments over the past year:

- The Village's financial condition continues to improve. He stated that the council now has an excellent understanding of the situation and future needs. The Financial Sustainability Report and budget meetings have been instrumental in this process.

- The Village recently had two public information meetings with its residents to keep residents informed about Village business.
- The council moved in a new direction by providing videos of meetings online only which will start in January and will cost less.
- Continued to look for better ways to communicate with residents. Village Clerk Nicole Browder has arranged for residents to access the same material that council members receive for meetings.
- Employee compensation—the focus was on process and timing of matters. The Council now has a clear and robust process and knows when things need to occur.
- Amberley Green dam—during 2014 the project was awarded and completed. One open item is getting final sign off from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He noted the importance of having this liability behind us.
- In 2014, began addressing pedestrian safety. It has been a concern for quite a few years which was always put off due to difficulty and money. Thanks to Vice Mayor Wolf and Chief Wallace who re-started the conversation to identify pedestrian safety installations to put in place within limited resources.
- Spent a lot of time meeting with various professionals about Amberley Green and the North Site to better understand development on these properties. It was a critical step to understand the market perspective of the properties.

Mayor Muething shared the priorities and goals for the upcoming year:

- Finances—maintain vigilance and only spend money where necessary. There was some success in identifying additional revenue sources, such as the JEDZ which will generate \$80-90,000 this year. The focus needs to be on finding as many new sources of revenue as possible.
- Pedestrian safety—will continue to be a focus; quarterly meetings of the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee will be planned.
- Police equipment and training—the committee will meet to review current equipment and needs to ensure the Village's police department needs are met.
- Streets—will be focused on during 2015. Overall, the 2013 study found that most streets are in good condition; however it is critical to maintain a streets program so that the streets do stay in good condition. The expenditures are much greater if allowed to get into poor condition.
- Amberley Green and North Site—continue to be a priority in identifying the way forward on these properties.

Mayor Muething took a moment to recognize the Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission for their professional services over the years and thanked them for providing the council meeting video recordings to the Village residents.

Mayor Muething wished council members, residents and staff a happy holiday season.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

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Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

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Mayor Thomas C. Muething